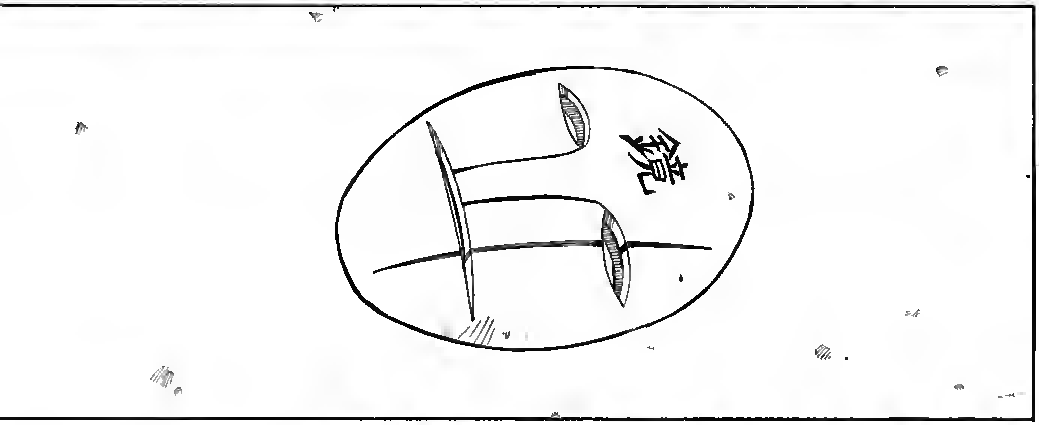
SUKEDACHI NINE
助太刀09

I'M SAYING THAT YOUR BROTHER IS STILL ALIVE OUT THERE!
...THEN I WOULD'VE FOUND HIM ON MY DAY OFF ALREADY.
IF LOOKING FOR HIM WERE SO EASY...
CHIRP
CHIRP
SIGH...
mirror:21
WHAT'S THERE TO KNOW? I TOLD YOU EVERY-THING BACK THEN.
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT MY BROTHER'S LAST MOMENTS...
HE'S LIKELY COMMITTING VIGILANTE ACTS ON HIS OWN!
!
GOOD MORNING, EVERY-ONE.
GRIP
RIGHT, SIR...

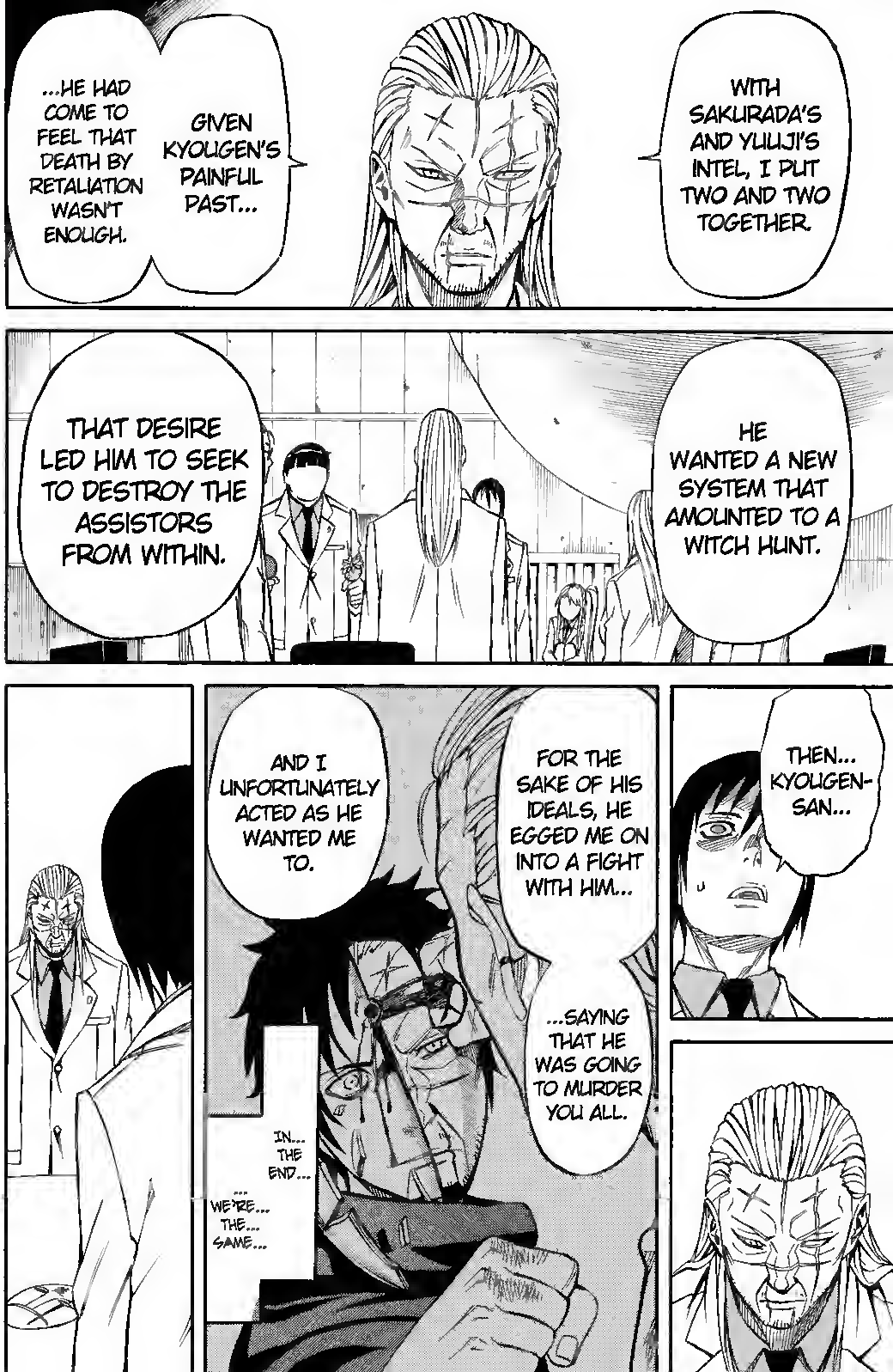
MIRROR:21 YUUICHI

SORRY I'M LATE, EVERYO--
ERGH... WHAT'S WITH THIS DOWNER MOOD...?


ガタ

NO WAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
TO THINK KYOUGEN-SAN WOULD...
...


WITH SAKURADA'S AND YUUJI'S INTEL, I PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER.
GIVEN KYOUGEN'S PAINFUL PAST...
...HE HAD COME TO FEEL THAT DEATH BY RETALIATION WASN'T ENOUGH.
HE WANTED A NEW SYSTEM THAT AMOUNTED TO A WITCH HUNT.
THAT DESIRE LED HIM TO SEEK TO DESTROY THE ASSISTORS FROM WITHIN.
THEN... KYOUGEN-SAN...
FOR THE SAKE OF HIS IDEALS, HE EGGED ME ON INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM...
AND I UNFORTUNATELY ACTED AS HE WANTED ME TO.
...SAYING THAT HE WAS GOING TO MURDER YOU ALL.
IN... THE END...
...WE'RE... THE... SAME...

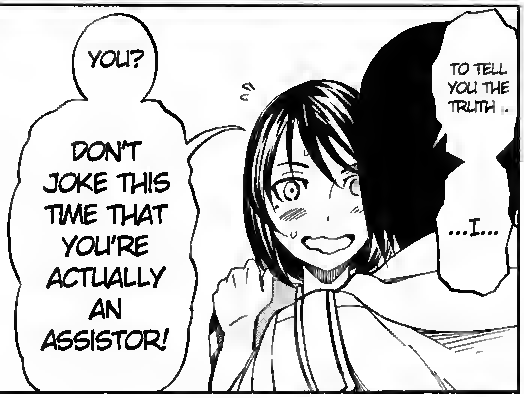
THINGS NEVER CHANGE, ERA AFTER ERA. AS LONG AS WE STILL PASS JUDGMENT ON OTHERS...
IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HOW WE ASSISTORS WILL BE HANDLED NOW THAT WE'RE AN UNWANTED BURDEN...
FIRST SAKURADA, AND NOW KYOUGEN... ON TOP OF THAT, RETALIATIONS ARE SUSPENDED.
...A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE KILL EACH OTHER.
...WE'LL KEEP BEING REMINDED THAT WE CANNOT ESCAPE...
鏡

!
HEY, YOU'RE HERE EARLIER THAN EXPECTED.
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT THICK OVER-COAT?
SHFF
HUH?
WH-WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! I'M RIGHT OVER HERE!
YUUJI !!

WHFF
...YUUJI YAMA-GISHI-KUN.
DON'T PLAY STUPID WITH ME...
YU...
...U...
...JI?
HEY.
TMP
WHA?! HE'S GONE!!
SHUDDER

EH?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT FOR, HARU?!
KYA!!
SLAP
BY THE WAY... WHEN DID YOU CHANGE CLOTHES?
UH... WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
What's going on?
HUH?
Y-YOU KNOW I HATE BEING SURPRISED LIKE THAT!
WAIT! WHERE DID YOU SEE ME?!
R-RIGHT HERE, JUST NOW.
.....!
STILL PLAYING DUMB? YOU GLARED AT ME UNDER A THICK HOODED COAT JUST NOW!
I JUST GOT HERE! GOD, MY CHEEK SMARTS!

...A WORLD WHERE PEOPLE KILL EACH OTHER.
WE'LL KEEP BEING REMINDED THAT WE CANNOT ESCAPE...
HE'S LIKELY COMMITTING VIGILANTE ACTS ON HIS OWN!


YOU?
DON'T JOKE THIS TIME THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY AN ASSISTOR!
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
...I...

WH-WHY'RE YOU LOOKING SO SERIOUS? IT'S CREEPING ME OUT...!
LISTEN TO ME. HARU

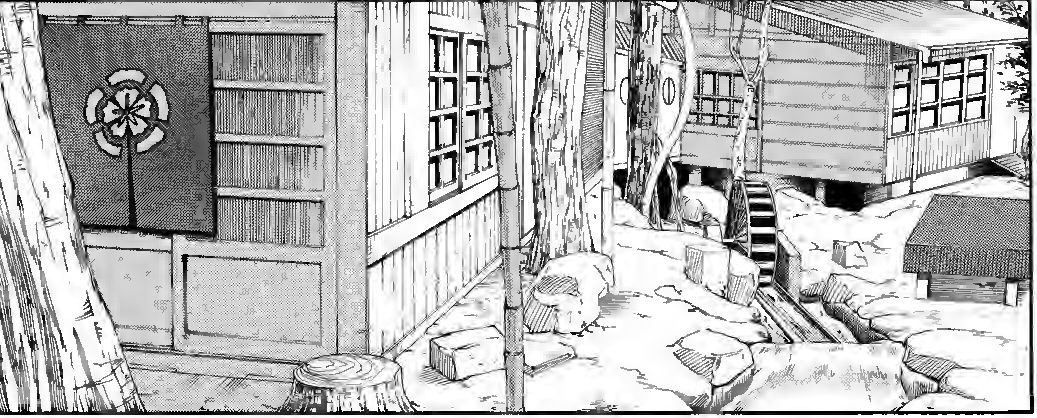
SO... LET'S STOP SEEING EACH OTHER—

EH?
...I FOUND SOMEONE THAT I LOVE.
SO...

SLAPP
STOP JERKING ME AROUND!!
IT'S NOT LIKE... WE'VE BEEN DATING ALL THIS TIME.
SO GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE.
.....
THROB
THROB
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY...
HARU... I CAN'T LET YOU GET INVOLVED...
...WITH WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE ASSISTORS.

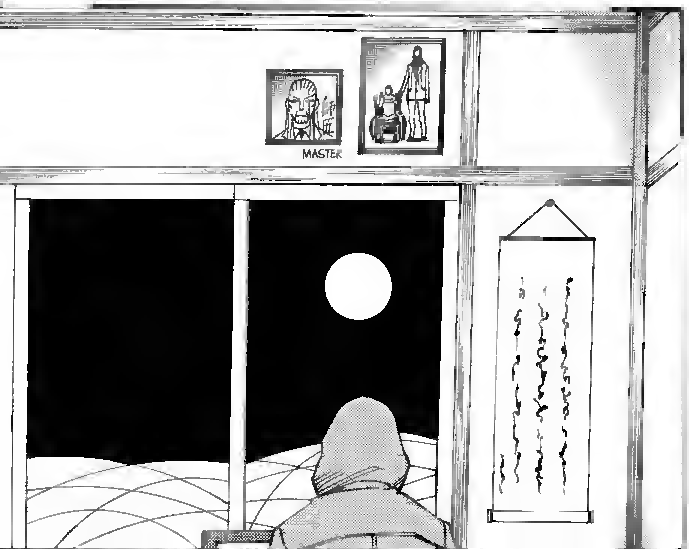
WELL... I'M OUTTA HERE...
HE... WAS SERIOUS ABOUT WHAT HE SAID...
JERK...

YU...
...U...
...JI?
...WHAT'S...
...GOING ON...?
GRIP
キリ

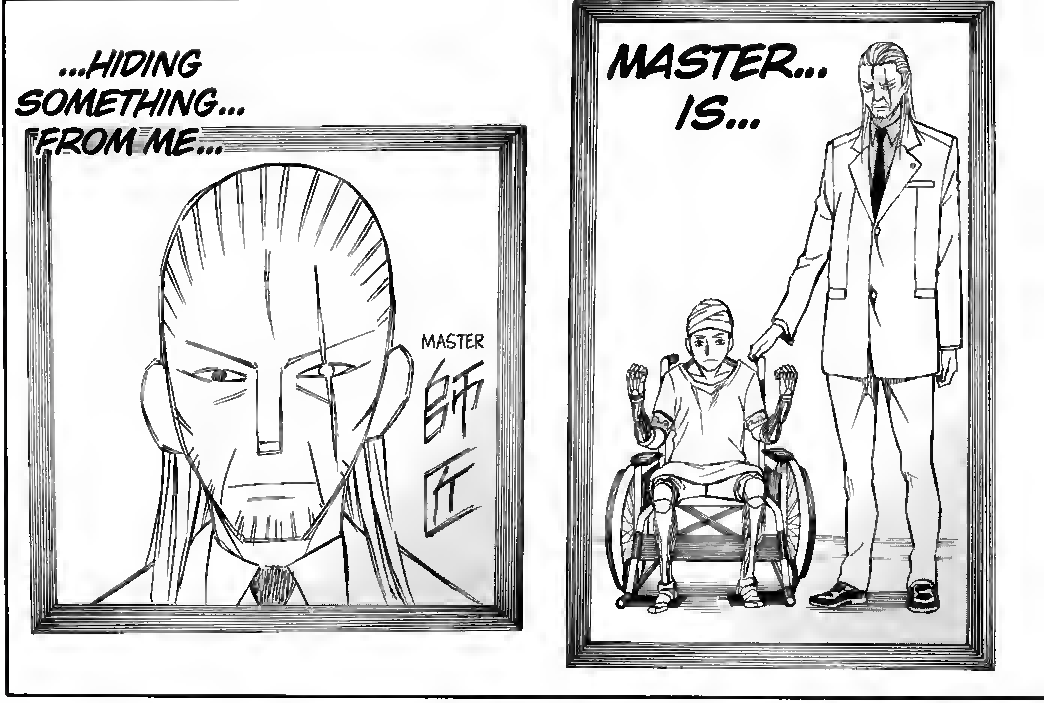


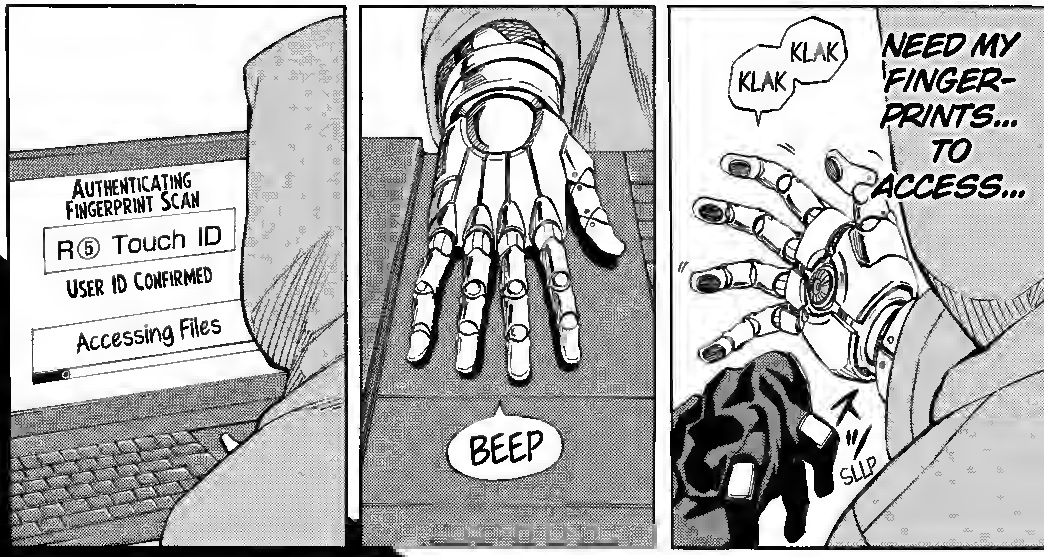
IS THAT... REALLY... YUUJI...?
KCHAK

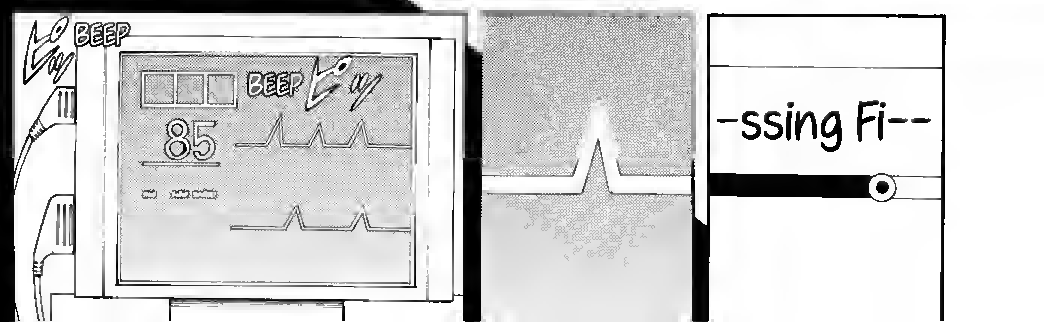
PTUNK


MASTER

!


...HIDING SOMETHING... FROM ME...
MASTER
MASTER... IS...


AUTHENTICATING FINGERPRINT SCAN
R⑤ Touch ID
USER ID CONFIRMED
Accessing Files
BEEP
KLAK
KLAK
NEED MY FINGER-PRINTS... TO ACCESS...
SLLP


BEEP
BEEP
85
-ssing Fi--

HE'S STILL HOLDING ON...
I THOUGHT THIS BOY WAS DONE FOR, BUT HE'S GOT SOME FIGHT LEFT IN HIM.
...JI...
YU...
...U...
UAAAAAAAAH!!

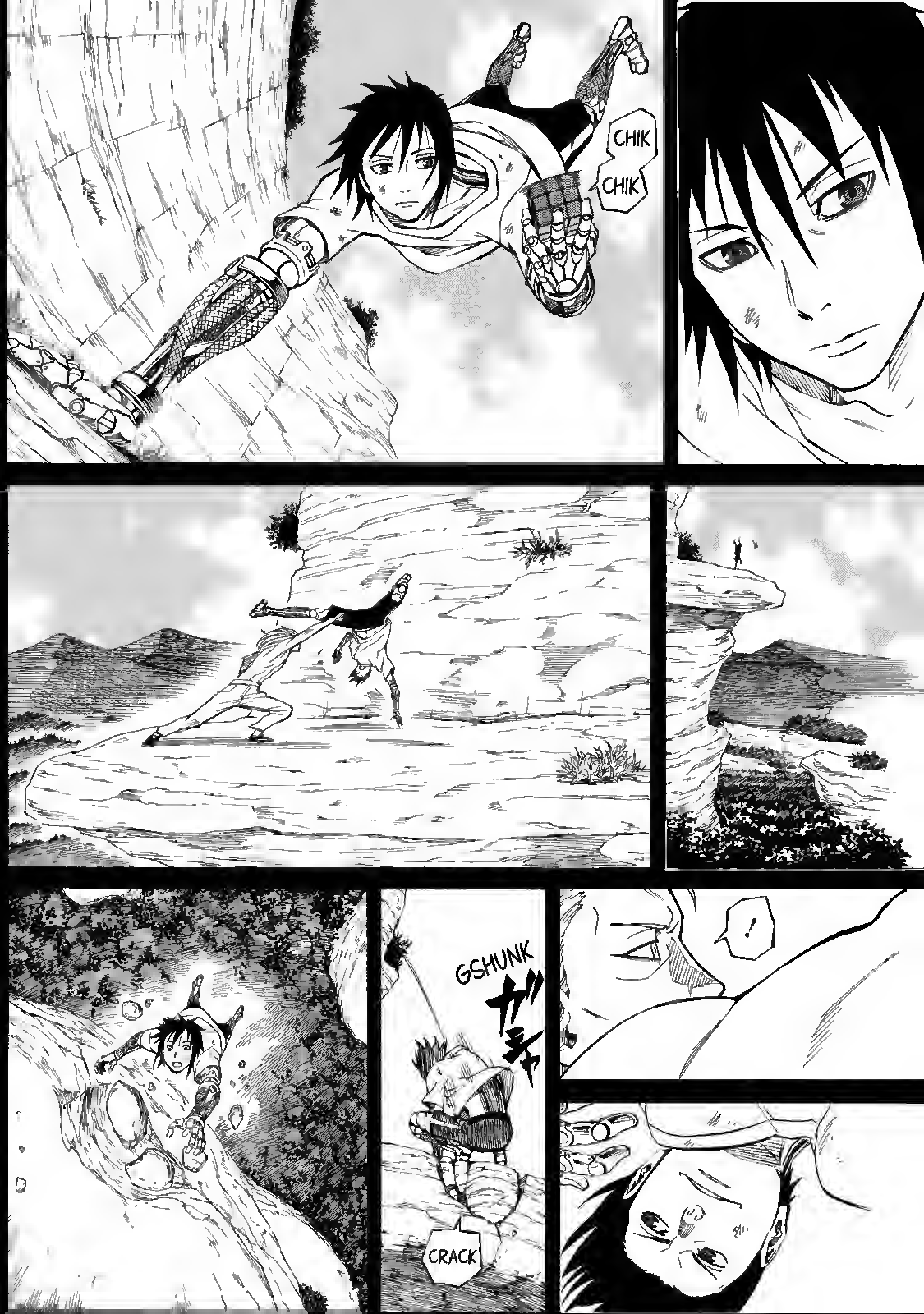
GUH!
HUFF!
GHUH!
AAAA-AAAH!!
...YUUICHI...
CALM YOUR-SELF...
HE'S REGAINED CON-SCIOUS-NESS?
HRGACK

...YUUICHI YAMAGISHI.
IT SEEMS YOU'VE FINALLY CALMED DOWN...
...THAT WE HAD TO AMPUTATE.
UN-FORTUNATELY, THE BURNS ON YOUR LIMBS WERE SO SEVERE...
YUI...
...U...
...JI...
...AND YOUR FAMILY...
YOUR HOUSE WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND, APPARENTLY IN AN ACT OF ARSON.

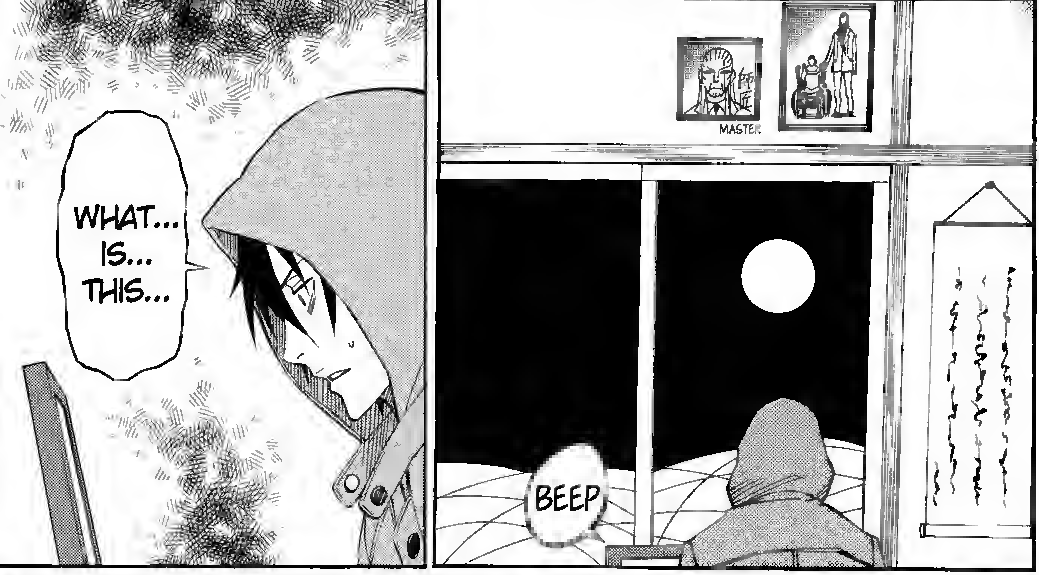
...THE ARSON-IST?!
WHO'S...
...MY... SOUL...
...KILL-ED... THEY...
I'LL KILL THEM!
I'LL KILL... THEM!
BUT I'LL HELP YOU GET THERE AS YOUR TEACHER.
EH
SHAAK
WE DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER YET.

THE WORLD IS FULL OF SENSELESS EVIL... THE KINDS OF PEOPLE WHO STOLE EVERYTHING FROM YOU.
BUT SHOULD YOU PUNISH THE EVILDOERS, YOU'LL EVENTUALLY FIND THE ONE RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR TRAGEDY.
YUUICHI YAMAGISHI... THIS TIME, YOU WILL DESTROY BOTH THEIR LIVES AND THEIR SOULS.

BEEP
BEEP
K...CHAK


CHIK
CHIK
GSHUNK
ガシャ
CRACK
!

YOU WEREN'T THOROUGH ENOUGH...
BUT... I FINALLY... DODGED IT...
GRAB
I... FINALLY...
SKETCH
SKETCH
...YUUJI...
MAS--
...FOUND MYSELF... A HERO, TOO...



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICE TASK FORCE "ASSISTORS"

ASSISTOR NO. 0 TASK FORCE CAPTAIN

KAMUI ODA (AGE 50)

Assistor No. 7

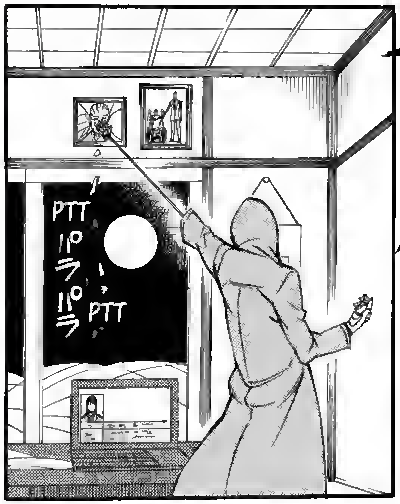
Yuuji Yamagishi (age 24)

FAMILY	NONE

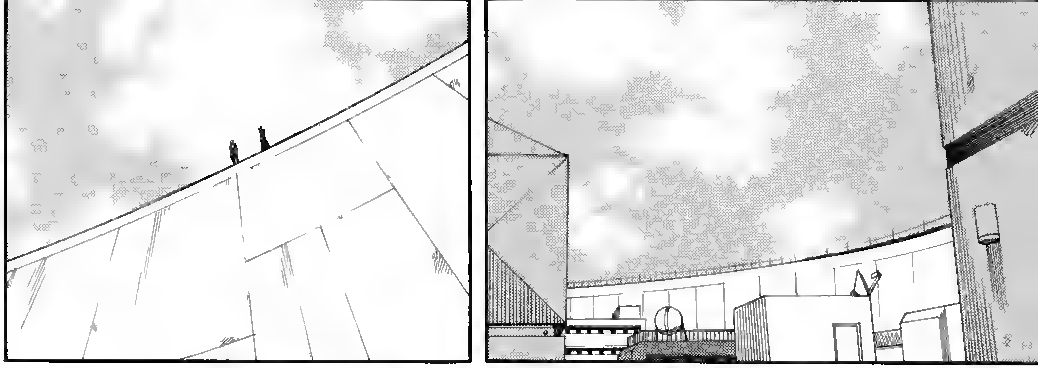
FATHER: BURNED TO DEATH MOTHER: DIED DUE TO ILLNESS
BROTHER: DIED DUE TO CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

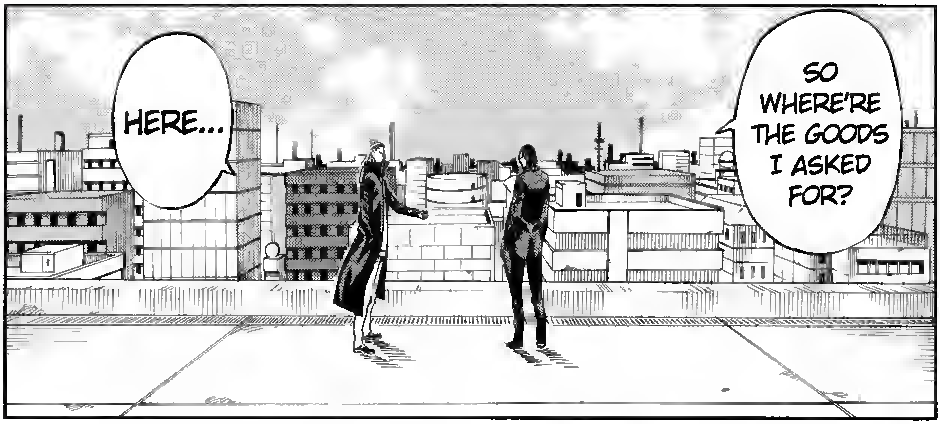
REMARKS→ Arms and legs of twin elder brother grafted on. DNA match 99.8%, no signs of rejection. Loss of pain sensation, per Transplant Dept.

Assistor No. 8

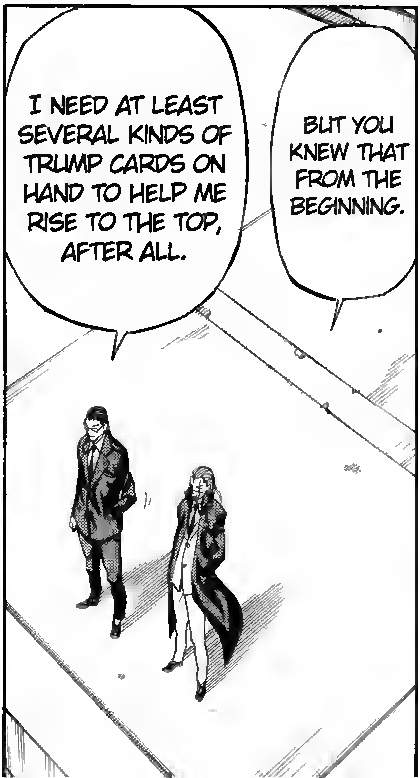


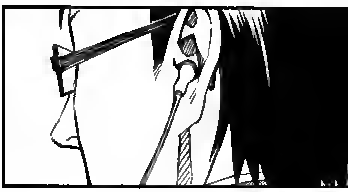
SHRIKK
I SEE... WHAT'S GOING ON...
... MASTER...

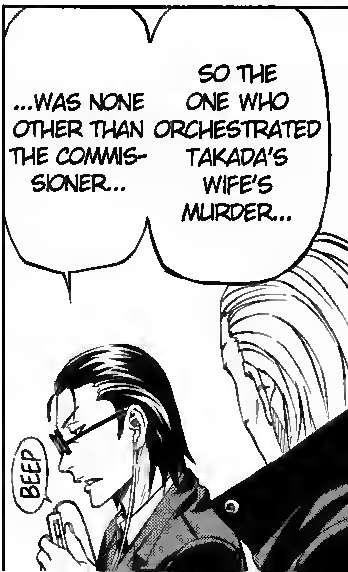



HERE...
SO WHERE'RE THE GOODS I ASKED FOR?

BUT...
...IF I SCREW UP THE SHOT, I COULD END UP IN A DITCH DEEPER THAN ANY POCKET OUT THERE.


I NEED AT LEAST SEVERAL KINDS OF TRUMP CARDS ON HAND TO HELP ME RISE TO THE TOP, AFTER ALL.
BUT YOU KNEW THAT FROM THE BEGINNING.

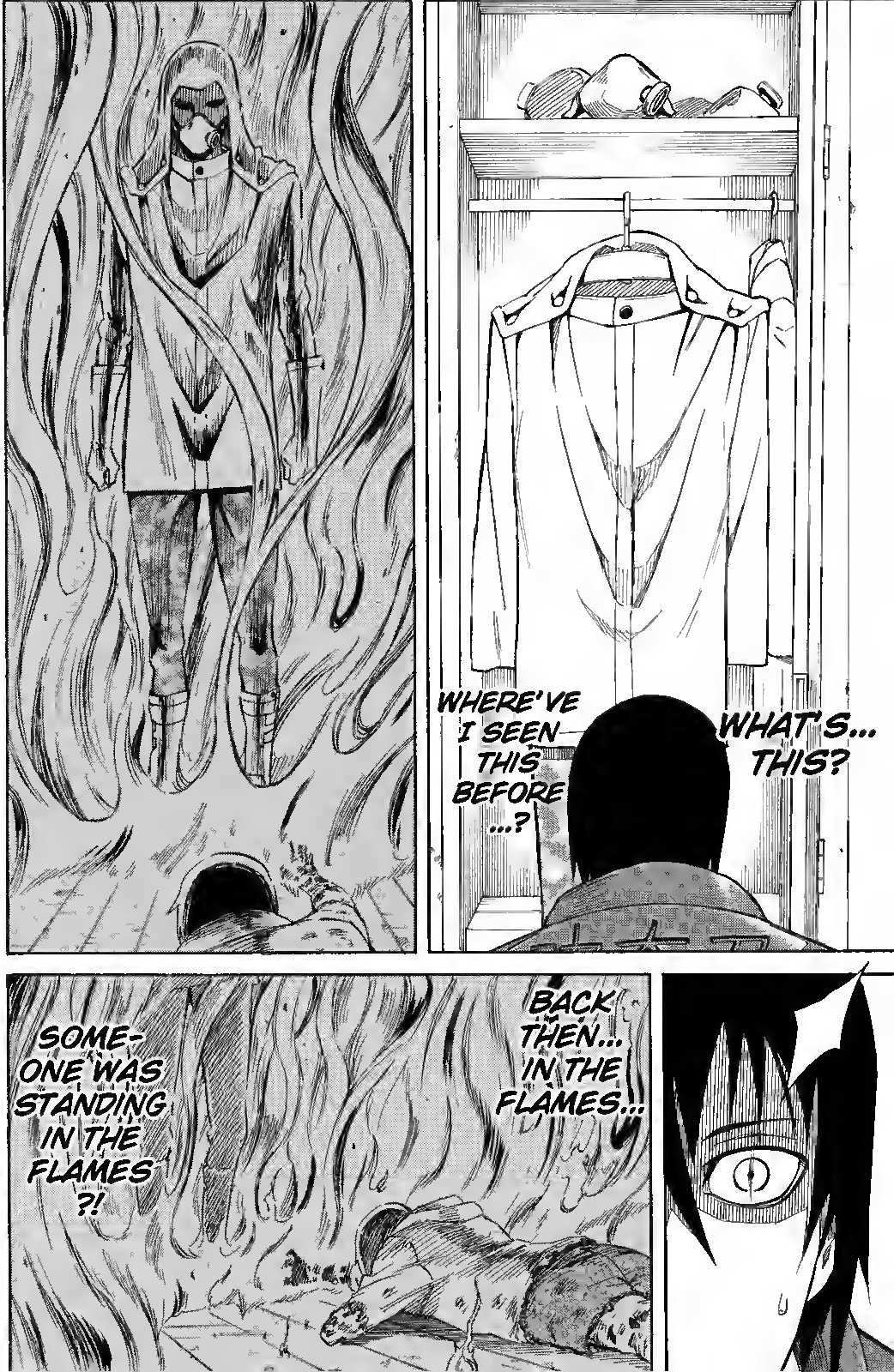



...WAS NONE OTHER THAN THE COMMISSIONER...
SO THE ONE WHO ORCHESTRATED TAKADA'S WIFE'S MURDER...
BEEP

I WONDER WHAT OUR YOUNGER SELVES... THE SIMPLETONS WHO STRUGGLED HARD TO ESTABLISH THE DEATH BY RETALIATION SYSTEM...
...WOULD THINK IF THEY SAW WHO THEY'D BECOME.
.....
HOWEVER, WITH THIS INCIDENT...
TWITCH
...WE'LL BE MOVING TOWARDS LIFTING THE SUSPENSION OF RETALIATION ACTIVITIES.
ODA... IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN USING YOUR OWN TRUMP CARD RECENTLY.
THE ONE NOT BELONGING IN YOUR ASSISTORS DECK.
OTHERWISE IT MIGHT BE ME WHO'LL HAVE TO PUT THE BRAKES ON YOU.
KTAP
YOU'D BETTER FIND YOUR ANSWER QUICK.

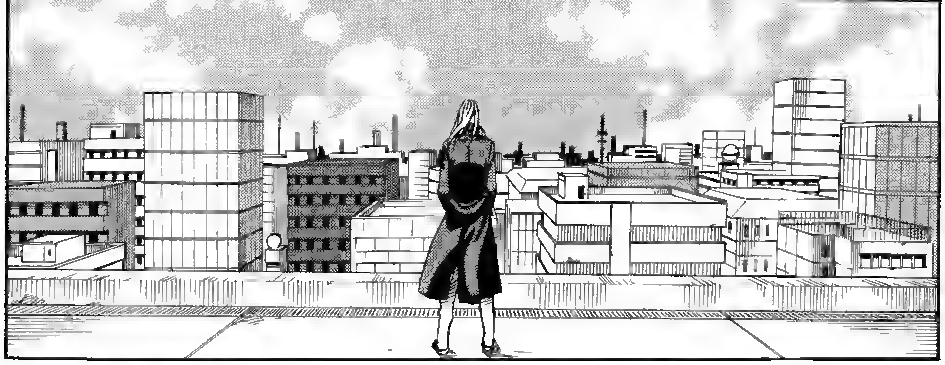
I WAS FACING OFF AGAINST SAKURADA-SAN, AFTER ALL...
It's kinda big...
HE JUST HAD TO BUST OUR STUFF UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A BUDGET CRUNCH...
SO, HOW ABOUT IT?
STILL, I NEVER THOUGHT THE OLD STUFF WOULD GET ALL BEAT UP LIKE THAT...
HOW'S THE NEW BODY ARMOR FEEL ON YA?
SLAM
...OVER MY BOUT WITH SAKURADA-SAN...?
IS THAT HIS WAY OF CONSOLING ME...
WE EACH HAVE OUR JOBS, WE DO THEM THOROUGHLY, AND THAT'S IT.
WE'RE BOTH PROFES-SIONALS, AFTER ALL...
SHFF
IS THAT YOUR ISSUE HERE?
SURE, IT IS.

ERR...
キィ
TING
キィ
TING
POP
KSHING
9
TIME TO UNDRESS...
GCHAK
YUUICHI...
.....
CAPTAIN'S LOCKER IS UNLOCKED...
!
KREEEE
キィーィィィ

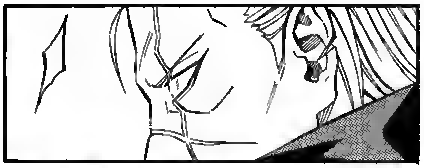

WHERE'VE I SEEN THIS BEFORE ...?
WHAT'S... THIS?
BACK THEN... IN THE FLAMES...
SOME-ONE WAS STANDING IN THE FLAMES ?!

HIS FACE...
I SAW IT...
EVEN WHEN MY CONSCIOUS-NESS WAS FADING...
THAT'S RIGHT!
SOME-ONE WAS THERE!!
BA-DOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON, SENPAI?
IS CAPTAIN ODA IN HIS ROOM?!
...TO INSPECT THE WESTERN AREA'S WALL NO. 3 WITH THE BILLIARDS GUY...
CAPTAIN WENT TO THE ARENA...
HUHN.
HUFF
YOU'RE STILL IN YOUR BODY ARMOR...
HUFF
TO MY FATHER'S HOUSE?!
IT CAN'T BE! DID THE CAPTAIN SET FIRE TO THE HOUSE OF A DEATH PENALTY ABOLITIONIST?!



YOU'VE... GOT... SOME NERVE... TO DECEIVE ME...
CRIIICK
...TO USE ME... ALL THIS... TIME...



SHFWOO

ZHIFF
WHIRRRR

TPP

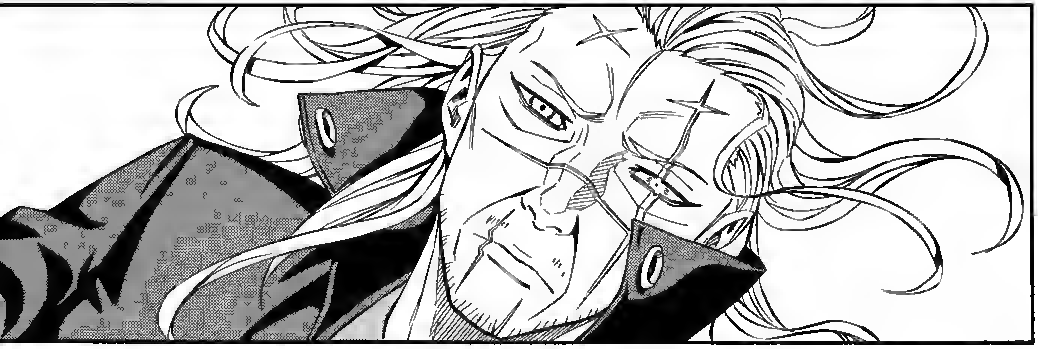
YUU-ICHI...
...MASTER!
...I'LL EVENTUALLY FIND THE... ONE.... RESPONSIBLE FOR MY... TRAGEDY.
YOU SAID... THAT... SHOULD I... PUNISH THE EVILDOERS...
YOU'RE WRONG!
BUT... I NEVER THOUGHT... YOU'D BE THE... ARSONIST...
WHIRRRR
YOU'RE THE EVIL... THAT STOLE EVERY-THING... FROM ME!!
...YOU EVEN HID MY... LITTLE BROTHER AWAY... AND INVOLVED HIM... IN THIS WORLD ...!
KCHAK
SILENCE...! NOT ONLY DID YOU... USE ME... BUT...

WE COULDN'T TELL YOU THAT AT THE TIME...
WE MADE YOU A DONOR TO YOUR BROTHER WHILE YOU WERE AT DEATH'S DOOR.
!
SHTUPP
KTHOOM
ENOUGH... OF THIS...
GIVING YOU LIMBS AND FORCING YOU INTO THIS WORLD WAS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE YOUR SOUL CRAWL BACK INTO THE LIGHT!
YOUR SOUL WAS TUMBLING INTO DARKNESS EVERY DAY BACK THEN.
BZAK
BZIK
THERE ARE... NO...
... HEROES... FOR ME ...!

FWEW
BZZAKK
TWANG
BZAKK
TWIRRRL
SHING
KSHIIK
ZWHIRRRR

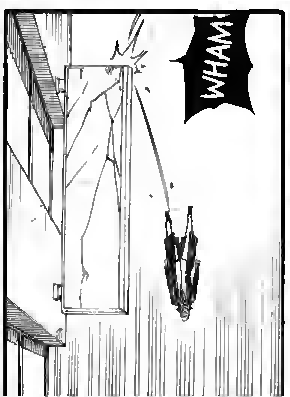
THUDD
FWIP

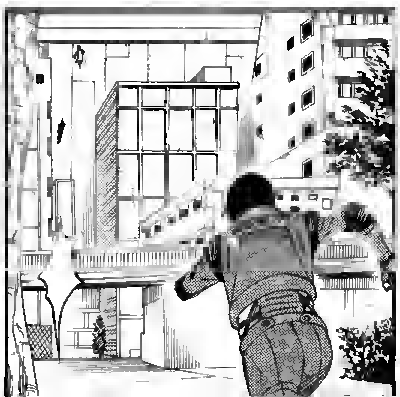
SHIKK
YOU WEREN'T... THOROUGH ENOUGH...
GRAB
GRAB
ZWIFF
YANK

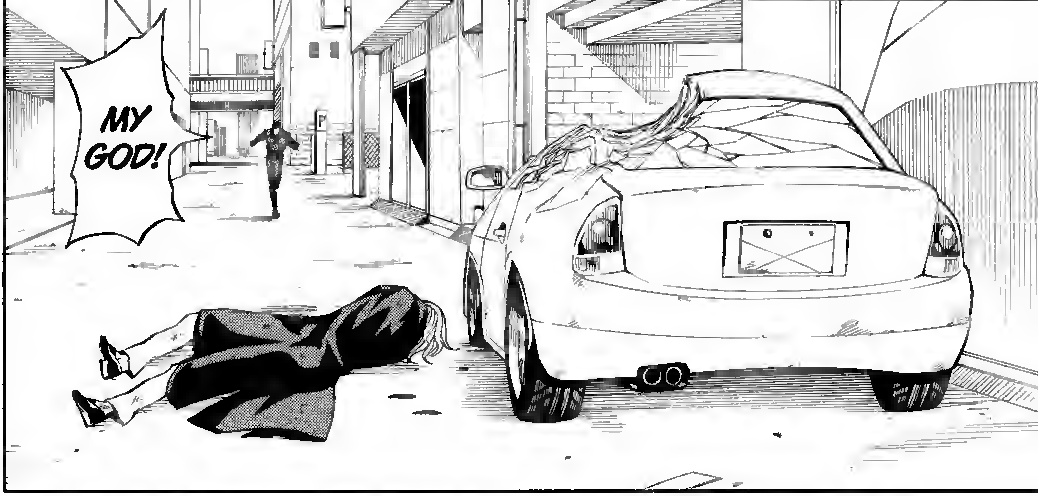


THIS TIME... I'LL TAKE AWAY...
...EVERY-THING... THAT'S PRECIOUS... TO YOU...

CAP-TAIN ?!


WHAM!

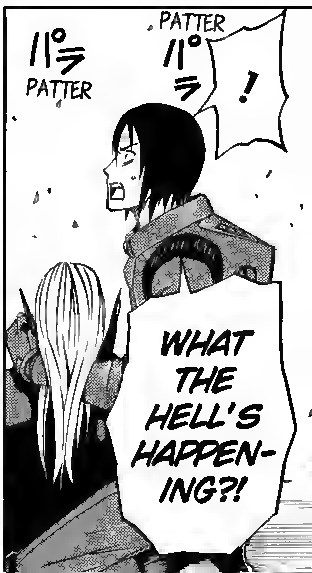



MY GOD!

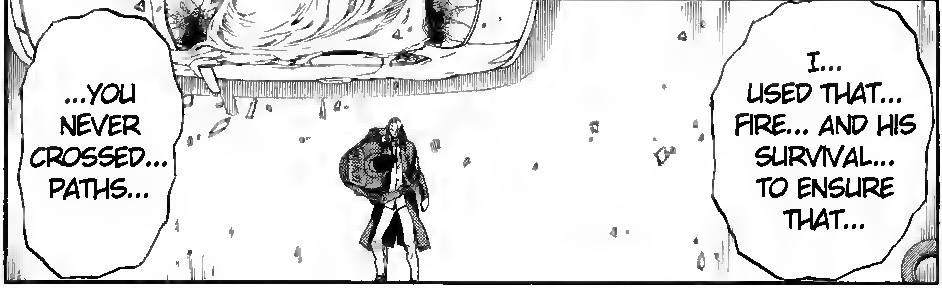
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM

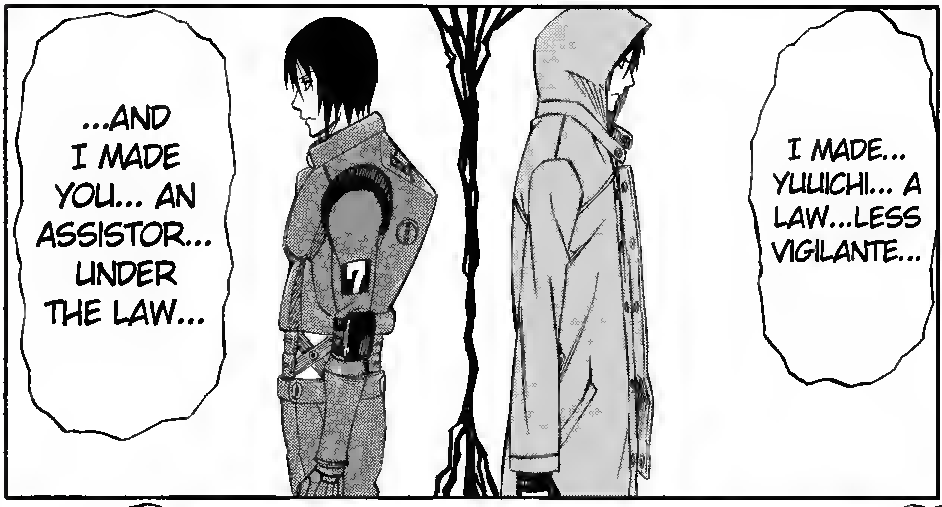
CAPTAIN! CAPTAIN !!
WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?!

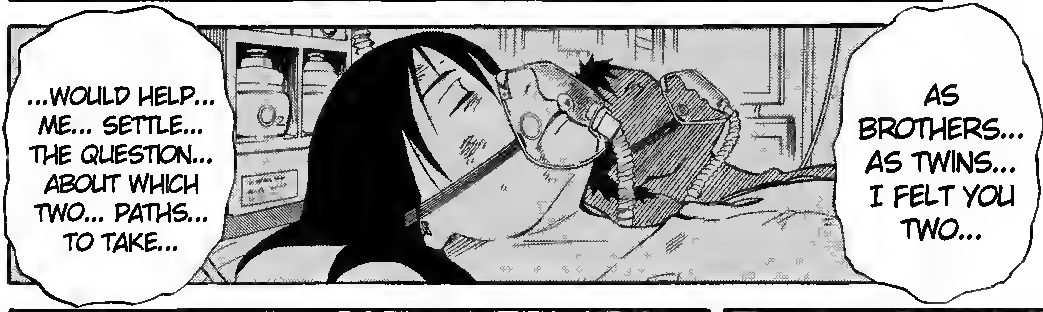
IT'S... YUU... ICHI...
CAP-TAIN!!

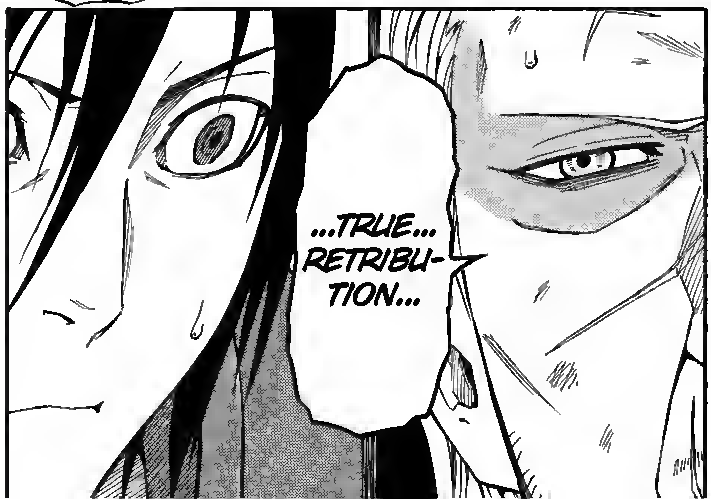

PATTER
PATTER
!
WHAT THE HELL'S HAPPEN-ING?!

SO MY BROTHER'S... YUUICHI'S REALLY ALIVE!!
I COULDN'T... TELL YOU... ANYTHING... UP 'TIL NOW...
BUT... I JUST HAPPENED... TO BE THERE... WHEN THE HOUSE... WAS SET ON FIRE...
YOUR... FATHER... WAS MARKED... AS A... POTENTIAL... THREAT.
THEN WERE YOU THE ONE WHO SET FIRE TO MY HOUSE?! TO KILL MY FATHER ...?!
...SO I DRAGGED... YOU BOTH OUT...
YOU BOTH... WERE STILL BARELY ALIVE...
PATTER
PATTER
THAT'S WHY... I LIED... THAT HE DIED...
.....
BUT... YUUICHI... HELD ON... I COULDN'T... TELL YOU...
ONCE I KNEW YOU WERE... TWINS... I MADE YUUICHI... DONATE HIS... LIMBS TO YOU... WHILE HE WAS... ON THE... VERGE OF... DEATH...


...YOU NEVER CROSSED... PATHS...
I... USED THAT... FIRE... AND HIS SURVIVAL... TO ENSURE THAT...


...AND I MADE YOU... AN ASSISTOR... UNDER THE LAW...
I MADE... YUUICHI... A LAW...LESS VIGILANTE...


...WOULD HELP... ME... SETTLE... THE QUESTION... ABOUT WHICH TWO... PATHS... TO TAKE...
AS BROTHERS... AS TWINS... I FELT YOU TWO...


...TRUE... RETRIBU- TION...

UGUCK!
COUGH!
ENOUGH, CAPTAIN! DON'T SPEAK!

I SOUGHT... THAT ANSWER... BY PUTTING YOU... ON THE SCALES... OF JUSTICE...
IT LOOKS LIKE... THE TIME HAS... COME...
...TO PAY... FOR... ... THAT... SIN...
I'M SO... SORRY... FOR DRAGGING... YOU... BROTHERS... INTO THIS...
FOR... GIVE...
...ME...
.....

DON'T APOLOGIZE, CAPTAIN...
I DON'T REGRET BECOMING AN ASSISTOR!
IN FACT, I FEEL THANKFUL TO YOU FOR RAISING ME LIKE THIS.
NOT JUST AS AN ASSISTOR, BUT AS SOMETHING MORE.

WAIT, SENPAI! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
ZHFF
C-CAPTAIN?! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
SENPAI!! THINGS ARE GETTING BAD ALL AROUND THE ARENA--
TAKE CARE OF THE CAPTAIN FOR ME!
NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT ANSWER IS...
AND HE DID THAT TO SEE WHICH PATH OF JUSTICE WAS THE RIGHT ONE.
GRIP
...ON THE SCALES OF JUSTICE.
CAPTAIN PLACED MY BROTHER AND ME...
...THE PATH I'VE TRAVELLED UNTIL NOW...
...BUT IF MY BROTHER PLANS TO DESTROY...

...TO HELP BRING THE HEARTS OF OTHERS BACK TO LIFE.
...IS A BOND...
THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO TO PROTECT IT...
... ISN'T EVERYTHING IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
I'VE GOT A WAYS TO GO..
I REALIZE NOW THAT JUST EMPATHIZING WITH THE FAMILIES
..THAT YOU MANAGED TO AVOID THAT PITFALL.
THANK GOD, THEN...
SLOSH SLOSH
MILK
CONSIDER YOURSELF A FULL-FLEDGED ASSISTOR NOW.
...THAT LETS THE VICTIMS' FACES BECOME MY OWN !!

IT MAY BE A KNIFE, OR IT MAY BE A WRENCH.
BUT HUMANS ARE THE ONES WHO MISUSE AND ABUSE THESE TOOLS.
THE TOOLS THEM-SELVES AREN'T TO BLAME!
...EXCEPT TO FIGHT ON...
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU DEAL WITH THAT OTHER SIDE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?
...YOU'LL ALWAYS... BE...
PRO-MISE... ME...
...WHO... YOU...
...TRULY ARE..
JUMP

...AS AN ASSISTOR!

SUKEDACHI MAN

助太刀009

English Digital Edition
Chapter 024

Sukedachi 09
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Seishi Kishimoto

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First published in Japan in 2016 by SQUARE ENIX CO., LTD.
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